

# THE NEW COVENANT



## News from The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

### Inside this issue:

Lenten Sermon Schedule	1
Sunday Schedule	2
Pastor's Letter	3
Deacons' Corner	4
Fuel Fund	5
Ways to Serve	5
Session Notes	6
Send Us Your Personal Devotions	7
NAC Lenten Services	8
Prayers of Praise and Concern	9
Thank You Corner	10
Calendar	11



March 27, 2022

“Reconciliation I”

Ephesians 2:15-18

(Psalm 32:1-5)

April 3, 2022

“Reconciliation II”

Genesis 44:17, 33,  
45:12-24

(John 8:1-11)

March 6, 2022

“Remorse”

Acts 2:37

(Psalm 38:2ff)

March 13, 2022

“Repentance”

Luke 19:1 - 10, RSV

(II Chronicles 7:14)

March 20, 2022

“Forgiving”

Matthew 6:14-15

(Prov.24:17ff)

April 10, 2022

“Entering Jerusalem”

Luke 19:28-40

(Isaiah 50:4-9a)

April 17, 2022

“Empty!”

Luke 24:1-12

(Isaiah 65:17-25)

### The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville

51 Cottage St. (church) - 7 Spring St. (office), Whitinsville, MA 01588

Phone: 508.234.8220 Website: [www.whitinpres.org](http://www.whitinpres.org) [www.facebook.com/whitinpres](https://www.facebook.com/whitinpres)

Office E-mail: [whitinpres@gmail.com](mailto:whitinpres@gmail.com) Rev. Dr. Susan DeHoff: [sldehoff@verizon.net](mailto:sldehoff@verizon.net)

Office Hours: 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM Mon & Wed 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM Tue & Fri

\*The church office is CLOSED on Thursdays\*

If you would like to see the newsletter in color, please view it on the website.

**March**  
**2022**

**~ March 6 – April 3 ~**

<b>Ministries</b>	<b>March 6</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>March 20</b>	<b>March 27</b>	<b>April 3</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b>	R. Thomas	J. Finnegan	L. Walsh	M. Alling	M. Thomas
<b>Greeters</b>	L. Walsh	J. Baker	W. Colonero	T. Morin	K. Bilodeau
<b>Ushers</b>	K. Miedema	L. Walsh	K. Miedema	J. Baker	D. Baker
<b>Sound Board</b>	G. Giemza	G. Giemza	M. Thomas	G. Giemza	G. Giemza
<b>Powerpoint</b>	M. Mercer	M. Thomas	K. Mercer	K. Bilodeau	K. Remillard
<b>Media</b>	K. Mateer	K. Mateer	J. Tobin	K. Mateer	K. Mateer

***March Birthday Corner***

Susan Mateer	3/1	Ashley Giemza	3/21
Stephen Connelly	3/2	Nina Ribbe	3/21
Ava Whitney	3/3	Jim D. Baker	3/26
Zack Morin	3/8	Katrina Ireland-Bilodeau	3/29
Harriett Platt	3/10	Christopher Lee	3/30
Judy Garabedian	3/16	Laurie Sabourin	3/31
Gay McCrea	3/18		

**\*\*\*Sunday Morning Worship Schedule\*\*\***

<b>Adult Education</b>	<b>9:00AM - 10:30AM</b>
<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Morning Worship Service</b>	<b>10:30AM - 11:30AM</b>
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>



*On March 2 we will observe Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is intended to be a time of self-reflection and self-examination. As such, it is the most difficult time during the liturgical year into which Christians enter. Perhaps that is why there is often a flurry of interest on the part of many to decide what one will give up for Lent. Chocolate? Sugar? Meat?*

*Giving up something for Lent is a symbolic way of fasting. Real fasting would mean going without food, social media, or a variety of entertainment experiences for the purpose of spending time alone with God to focus on one's need for remorse and penitence for myriad attitudes, deeds, words, intents, desires, etc. that offend God. Doing that takes a lot of faith, courage, prayer, and trust in God.*

*The church talks a lot about the fact that God has reconciled us to God and to each other through Christ's sacrifice. But Christ's sacrifice is not the equivalent of a "get out of jail free" card! There is such a thing as "cheap forgiveness," to paraphrase Dietrich Bonhoeffer's idea of "cheap grace." Cheap forgiveness is what we expect when we say that someone we've wronged should just forgive us because that's what Christians are supposed to do. Those who are forgiven don't need to do anything except receive forgiveness.*

*But the reality is that the one doing the forgiving has been hurt by the one being forgiven!! Christ endured extreme spiritual, physical, and mental anguish because of humankind's self-centered willfulness to break whatever laws of God we didn't like. And we are all part of the human race to which that inclination applies. So, do we really expect Jesus to take all that pain from us and not expect anything from us in return for God's forgiveness?*

*What I'm getting at is that the reconciliation between God and human beings that Jesus effected is a two-part process: remorse/repentance and forgiveness. And the former precedes the latter. How dare we do a "grab and run" action, grabbing God's forgiveness as we dash away to attend whatever task or job we think is more important? By the same token, how dare we do that to another human being?*

*The "Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of South Africa" understood exactly what was needed for reconciliation after the end of apartheid. It wasn't easy, but it was the only way to begin a new democratic nation in peace. The work that commission did is fascinating reading. The plan was created by Christian men. Some people had been greatly hurt by people who had exercised authority over them. Opportunities were held in venues around the country for those who had been badly hurt to confront those who had hurt them so that when they were forgiven, they knew that of which they were being forgiven.*

*But there was an additional step taken: Those who had been hurt and those who had inflicted the pain were required by the TRC to agree upon reparation that would be meaningful to both parties. Forgiveness is not just a matter of saying, "I'm sorry." Nor is it a matter of saying, "I promise I won't do that again." That's cheap!! Forgiveness is a matter of coming to a full realization of what one has done that caused hurt (whether to God, another human, or both), then in humble contrition asking forgiveness, and finally in sincerity and humility asking how one can make meaningful reparation. History has revealed that the TRC in South Africa was a great success.*

*That's what Lent is all about. It is not for the faint of heart nor for those for whom faith is not a serious matter. There is not one human being on the planet who has not done something wrong, something that harmed someone else in some way. Thinking one has not is an example of one of the greatest human sins: Pride.*

*As Christians at UPCoW engage Lent this year, attention will be focused on self-examination, self-reflection, penitence and remorse, forgiveness, and the process of reconciliation. Forgiveness is part of the process, but it is not the first part. Traversing the whole process of reconciliation, like the TRC showed the world, is the only path forward toward peace.*

*Rev. Dr. DeHoff*

## *Deacons' Corner*

The Deacons started their meeting in prayer, and had a busy agenda that covered a variety of items which included:

Reviewing and approving the November minutes. (No meeting was held in December). Each member will be given a chance to review them before the next meeting and a final approval will then be taken at that time. (February meeting)

Article 7 of the By-laws was given further attention and discussed for the Deacon's Collection, as well as how it would be handled in the future accordance to the by-laws.

A Deacons Collection was held on Sunday, February 27th. A notice will be posted in the Scoop and the bulletin prior to that date. A minute for Mission will be also be shared by Ronda on the same day of the Deacons Collection to remind the congregation of the purpose for this Collection.

An assignment sheet for the next year's Open/Closing prayers was passed around for each Deacon to sign in on a day of their choice.

Deacons spent a fair amount of time sharing updates as care receivers with their visits to the home-bound and hospitalized members. Our Card Ministry is also doing quite well, thanks to Jean Finnegan.

The Hat and Mitten Tree that has been set up for those in need has brought in a generous amount from the congregation. These gifts have been greatly appreciated from the community.

Concerns and joys were shared before the closing prayer.

# FUEL FUND COLLECTION

We will hold a Fuel Fund collection on March 20. We appreciate any help you are able to give to support heating our church buildings this year.

<b>Budgeted</b>	\$10,000
<b>Received to Date</b>	\$2,740
<b>Paid to Date</b>	\$4,823
<b>Current Balance</b>	-\$2,083
<b>Amount Still Needed</b>	<u>\$7,260</u>



## WAYS TO SERVE

Spring has not arrived quite yet even though we had one or two spring-like days warm enough to dig out the flip flops. This is the time of year that cabin fever sets in and the past two years we've also had Covid fever.

If you are feeling antsy and want to get out and get plugged back into the life of the church there are plenty of places to serve!

Here are just a few:

- Sunday morning worship: choir, worship leader, music, power point, greeter, usher, video, sound media, coffee fellowship when it resumes, children's sermon etc.
- Food, Fun & Fellowship
- Missions committee & KMHMC.
- Deacon volunteers.
- Trustee volunteers.

- Worship committee.
- CGN
- Office help.
- Peace of Bread volunteers. Sunday school teacher or aide.
- Jr. church aide.
- Peace of Music team
- Small group leader.

And so much more! Prayerfully consider where God is calling you to plug in and make a difference with your time and talents!

## **SESSION NOTES**

We met for congregational prayer on February 7.

We met for our Stated business meeting on February 27.

Approved Cheryl and Don Postma Jr. rejoining the church by reaffirmation of faith.

Authorized a NAC Lenten service on March 16 at our church.

Authorized the Ash Wednesday service in March 2 at 7:00 pm.

Approved dropping mask mandate except for children's Sunday School and Jr. Church.

Approved resuming serving communion for April.

Approved Rev. Amy Fowler for pulpit supply for May 15.

Approved Global missions pledge payment.

Approved the Easter festival for April 16.

Approved March 27 as the date for a congregational meeting for the purpose of updating our bylaws.

Approved an order of worship for Peace of Music.

Resuming Pre-Covid way of serving communion beginning April 3.

# SEND US YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS



The Lenten season is a special time for personal devotions. We invite you to share your special devotionals with the whole congregation. Be creative in finding ways to share.

We would love you to send to the office what scripture draws you in a closer communion with Christ, so we can share with each other how God is working in and through you. We will share these in the newsletter, Scoop and Facebook.

Email [whitinpres@gmail.com](mailto:whitinpres@gmail.com) or mail to 7 Spring Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

A good place for resources is the PC USA, Our Daily Bread or your favorite form of devotional.

# Lenten Weekday Services Schedule

## Northbridge Association of Churches



Rev. DeHoff and preachers from Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church, Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church, and Village Congregational Church will provide weekday services at 12 pm every Wednesday during Lent. The location of the services rotates each week.

Date	Host Church	Preaching	Text for Message/Theme
March 9	Village	Kim Manion	"Father, forgive them..."
March 16	Presbyterian	Joel Vande	"Today you will be with me
March 23	Methodist	Susan De Hoff	"My God, why have you forsaken me?" Mt. 27:46
March 30	Fairlawn	Tom Landry	"I thirst." John 19:28
April 6	Village	Matthew Burns	"Father, into your hands I



## **PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONCERN**

Jim and Debbie have a prayer of joy and praise that in August they will become great-grandparents.

Marilyn Alling requests prayers for a client whose Ukrainian-born brother is stuck in Moscow and trying to get out.

Marilyn also requests prayers for her client who is Ukrainian and has all of her family and her in-laws as well as many friends living in Ukraine.

Judy Salzberg asks prayers of comfort for Patty Reynolds and her sister, as Patty's brother-in-law died on Feb. 4. Especially pray for Patty's sister, Maria.

Laura and Mike Joyce have a prayer of thanks that Mike's friend, David's infection is all cleared up.

Susan Mateer asks prayers for her Mom, Beth, who is now at Lydia Taft, where they are working on stabilizing her blood pressure. It was very low, and that caused her fall a couple weeks ago.

Mallorie Mercer has a prayer of thanks that her wisdom teeth surgery went well and that she is recovered.

Lynne Walsh asks prayers for employees at the retail store where she is a manager. There was a major water leak, and the store will be closed for a while, leaving some employees without income.

Prayers for people living in and trying to flee from Ukraine. Prayers that countries sympathetic to Ukraine's cause will find ways to help them win this conflict.

Tanya asks prayer for an opening for an EMG before her app't in May, as she is experiencing numbness in her hands. She also asks prayers that her upcoming thyroid test will show the absence of nodules.

Continued prayers for Bob and Harriet Platt.

Will Colonero asks prayers for the grandmother, Rose, of his good friend. Cancer treatment for stomach cancer has not been successful, and drs. give her 6 months to a year to live. Rose is like a grandmother to Will.

Eileen Straub asks continued prayers for her husband, Michael. He had hoped he would finally get the hernia surgery on Tues., but it has been postponed to May 2, because there is still a ban on elective surgery. Pray that his surgery becomes accepted as necessary, not elective, and for an earlier surgery date to become available.

Mary and Bill Spalton have a prayer of praise that Rachel's surgery went well and drs. were able to remove all the malignant cells on the first pass.

Sarah and Tim Wieggers ask continued prayers for Luke who had fixators implanted in his legs. Luke is back home and not experiencing pain. Pray that the fixators will be successful in helping his legs grow strong and healthy.

Jim and Debbie Baker ask prayers for Jim's nephew, Stuart. Stuart had an accident while pruning a tree, and broke his left leg an ankle in several places. He is back home, but facing a long recovery.

Gaye Shannon has a prayer of thanks that 6 m.o, Madelyn is doing much better following a bout with Covid.

Tanya Morin has a prayer of thanks that Zack now has a job as a group leader for Precious Ones School Age program in Northbridge. He has the potential to become Site Coordinator.



## THANK YOU CORNER

*Thank you to Pastor Susan and everyone who serves on all the church committees for all of the hard work you do to keep our church going. –Jean Finnegan*

*Thank you to Debbie Baker, Jim Baker, and Judy Salzberg for your help in getting the newsletter out! –Erin Howard*

*Thank you to Debbie and Jim Baker for your help in stuffing, labeling, stamping, and mailing the financial appeal letters in February! It was a huge help. –Pastor Susan and Erin*

*Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to the Hat and Mitten Trees. The Department of Child and Family Services in Whitinsville was very grateful. We were able to provide warm hats and mittens for many children of all ages this year. –The Deacons*

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		7:00 Worship Committee	5:00 Peace of Bread 7:00 Ash Wed Service			
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service	7:30 Session Prayer Mtg		12 pm Lenten Service VCC 5:00 Peace of Bread 6:30 Trustee Meeting 6:30 Join Session & Deacons 7:00 Christian G&N Mtg		April Newsletter Deadline	
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Bible Study			12 pm Lenten Service UPCoW Pastor Joel Vande Werken 5:00 Peace of Bread			
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Bible Study Fuel Fund Collection	6:30 Session		12pm Lenten Service United Methodist Church 5:00 Peace of Bread			
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>					
9:00 Adult SS (Zoom) 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship Service Fellowship Luncheon	6:30 Deacons		12:00 Lenten Service Fairlawn Christian Reformed 5:00 Peace of Bread			



**United Presbyterian  
Church of Whitinsville**

51 Cottage Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Phone: 508-234-8220  
Email: [whitinpres@gmail.org](mailto:whitinpres@gmail.org)

News of the Church Family from the  
United Presbyterian Church at  
Whitinsville

[www.facebook.com/whitinpres/](http://www.facebook.com/whitinpres/)

NON-PROFIT

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 27

Whitinsville, MA 01588

